

App. No. 10/601,135
Amct. dated February 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2004

Amendments to the Figures

Please replace page 1 of the Drawings with the replacement drawing sheet attached hereto in duplicate. Reference character "9" has been deleted from Figure 1 on this replacement drawing sheet.

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REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action of October 21, 2004. This Amendment is fully responsive thereto. While adding no new subject matter to the application, Applicants have revised the Specification and the Abstract to meet standard U.S. formatting requirements. Applicants have also amended Figure 1 to delete reference character 9 in response to the Examiner's objection to the Specification. Applicants have also amended claims 11-12, 14-21, 24-26, and 30-36 and cancelled claims 37-38.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 11-38 as indefinite concerning interconnection of steps (i)-(iii). Applicants have amended claims 11, 33, and 34 to connect steps (i)-(iii).

The Examiner also rejected claims 15, 17-18, 20, 25, and 30-32 as failing to provide direct antecedent basis for certain words or phrases in the claims. Applicants believe that the Examiner meant to reject claim 34 in the rejection of claim 43 under the same basis as claims 15, 17, 18, 20, 25, 30, and 31-32. Applicants have amended each of these claims to cure this rejection.

The Examiner also rejected claims 37-38 as not described in the specification. Applicants have cancelled these claims and thus rendered the rejection moot as to these claims.

As such, Applicants believe the rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below. A petition for a one-month extension of time has been contemporaneously submitted with this Amendment along with the associated fee. Otherwise, it is believed that no fee is due at this time. If that belief is incorrect, please debit deposit account number 01-1375. Also, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment to deposit account number 01-1375.

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Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to phone number 703-872-9306 on this 22nd day of February, 2005.



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